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FOR THE YEAR 1952



Rural District Council of Highworth

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THE  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
and  
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR  
AND HOUSING OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1952



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# Highworth Rural District Council

1952—53

*Chairman of the Council:*

EDWARD ALFRED MERRICKS, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman of the Council:*

NORMAN LESLEY WHATLEY

*Clerk of the Council:*

WILFRED S. G. MILLS

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

All the Members of the Council

*Chairman* — Mrs. ELSIE T. CONSTABLE

*Vice-Chairman* — The Rev. PERCY ANDERSON

## HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE:

All the Members of the Council

*Chairman* — NORMAN L. WHATLEY

*Vice-Chairman* — E. F. BOULTON

To: The Chairman and Councillors of the  
RURAL DISTRICT OF HIGHWORTH.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1952 on the state of the public health of the District together with the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.

On the whole, apart from an outbreak of Whooping Cough, the District remained free from serious epidemics and its general high standard of health was maintained. No case of Diphtheria was recorded. A marked decline in the incidence of Measles was in keeping with the country-wide picture whereby the disease now seems to recur in epidemic form biennially. Only one case of Typhoid Fever and one of Poliomyelitis were notified.

As usual, the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer affords a vivid picture and a valuable summary of a large volume of work. The continued good progress of the Council Housing Schemes is very gratifying. It is also interesting to note the increased number of houses erected by private enterprise.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation of the whole-hearted co-operation and assistance from the staff and also from the other departments of your Council throughout the year.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

  
R. S. McELROY.

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1953.



**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF AS AT**  
**31st December, 1952.**

*Medical Officer of Health*

R. S. McELROY, B.A., M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M. (also Medical Officer of Health, Cricklade & Wootton Bassett Rural District Council, Assistant County and School Medical Officer, Wiltshire County Council).

*Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer*

A. G. UNDERWOOD, CERT. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., MEAT AND FOOD CERT., CERT. NAT. INST. BUILDERS.

*Additional Sanitary Inspectors*

F. R. G. SELWOOD, CERT. R.S.I., M.S.I.A., MEAT AND FOOD CERT., A.R.S.I.

H. S. CARTWRIGHT, CERT. S.I.J.B., M.S.I.A., MEAT AND FOOD CERT. A.R.S.I.

*Assistant Housing Officer*

L. ROWLAND, A.R.I.P.H.H.

*Rodent Operator*

D. F. WALKER.

*Clerical Staff*

Miss S. E. NEWMAN—Shorthand Typist.

Miss E. M. POCOCK—Shorthand Typist. (Services shared with Cricklade & Wootton Bassett Rural District Council and Wiltshire County Council).

COUNCIL OFFICES,  
BATH ROAD,  
SWINDON, WILTS.

Telephone Nos. Swindon 2077, 3389 and 4760.



## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District (acres)	...	...	...	48,749
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	14
Estimated Population (including Service Personnel)	...	...	...	21,360
Number of Inhabited Houses (approx.)	...	...	...	5,933
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£109,544
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£437
Number of new houses erected in 1952	...	...	...	140
By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	23
By Local Authority	...	...	...	117
Number of Domestic dwellings connected to main water supply in H.R.D.C. Water Undertaking Area	...	...	...	116
Number of Domestic dwellings connected to main water supply in Swindon Borough Water Undertaking Area	...	...	...	153

**Population:** The estimated population of 21,360 is 116 greater than that for 1951.

**Number of Inhabited houses:** The figure of 5,933 shows little change from the previous year.

**New Houses erected in 1952:** The figure of 140 compares very favourably with that of 106 for 1951.

**Water Supplies to Domestic Dwellings:** The number of dwellings connected to a main water supply was 269, an increase of 71 over the 1951 figure.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

### Live Births:

Births				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	157	176	333
Illegitimate	...	...	...	10	11	31
Total number of live births				167	187	354

Birth Rate for the District	...	...	...	16.65
Comparative figure for England and Wales			...	15.3
Comparability factor for the District		...	...	1.06

### Still Births.

Births				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	5	6	11
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total number of Still Births				5	6	11

### Deaths.

Total number of deaths in the Area	...	...	...	214
Local Death Rate	...	...	...	10.01
Comparative figure for England and Wales			...	11.3
Comparability factor for the District		...	...	1.05

### Infant Mortality.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.

Deaths				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	5	2	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total number of deaths				5	2	7

### Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.

Deaths				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	5	2	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total number of deaths				5	2	7

### Infant Mortality Rate i.e.

Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per				
1,000 live births	...	...	...	19.77
Comparative figure for England and Wales			...	27.6

**Birth Rate:** At 16.65 the rate shows an increase of 1.65 per 1,000 population over the 1951 figure and compares favourably with that of 15.3 for England and Wales.

**Death Rate:** This was 10.01 and slightly higher than the previous year but, nevertheless, lower than the comparative figure of 11.3 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

**Infant Mortality Rate:** Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births was 19.77 and considerably lower than the 1951 figure and favourably compared with that of 27.6 for England and Wales.

### Causes of Death:

				Male	Female
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	...	...	...	—	3
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	1	1
Malignant Neoplasms; stomach	...	...	...	1	2
lung, bronchus	...	...	...	6	2
Malignant Neoplasms; breast	...	...	...	—	4
uterus	...	...	...	—	1
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	10	9
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	10	11
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	19	5
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	3	2
Other heart diseases	...	...	...	14	19
Influenza	...	...	...	—	1
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	4	6
Pneumonia	...	...	...	3	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	8	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and deodenum	...	...	...	2	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	3	—
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	...	...	...	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	22	19
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	3	1
All other accidents	...	...	...	3	1
TOTAL, all causes				117	97

### Causes of Death:

**Cancer:** Although the total number was 35 compared with 33 for the previous year, deaths from this disease of the lungs was only eight compared with nine for 1951.

**Coronary Disease, Angina:** The incidence increased compared with 1951, especially affecting males to the extent of over 50% but decreased in females.

**Influenza:** Only one death was notified.

**Pneumonia:** The figure of six deaths compares favourably with that of 17 for 1951.

### DEATHS FROM CANCER DURING 1952.

Age	Site				Total
	Lungs	Stomach	Breast	Other	
40-50 yrs.	—	—	3	3	6
51-60 yrs.	2	1	—	3	6
61-70 yrs.	1	—	—	3	4
71-80 yrs.	3	1	—	11	15
81-90 yrs.	—	—	—	1	1
TOTAL	6	2	3	21	32



## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the incidence of infectious diseases during 1952 as compared with 1950 and 1951.

Disease	1950	1951	1952
Scarlet Fever ... ..	10	30	17
Whooping Cough ... ..	84	67	122
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	31	375	14
Pneumonia ... ..	10	21	7
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	—	—	3
Dysentery ... ..	16	25	39
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	3	6
Small pox ... ..	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	1	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ... ..	—	—	1
Erysipelas ... ..	3	3	3
Chickenpox ... ..	—	—	—
Malaria ... ..	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis ... ..	7	1	1
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	3	8
Undulant Fever ... ..	—	—	1
Abortus Fever ... ..	—	—	1
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>164</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>223</b>

### ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS

The distribution of cases in age groups and Parishes is shown in the following two tables:

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-45 yrs	45-65 yrs.	65 and over	Unknown	Total
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	4	11	1	1	—	—	—	17
Whooping Cough ... ..	7	60	43	1	11	—	—	—	122
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	11	3	—	—	—	—	—	14
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	2	7
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	3
Dysentery ... ..	1	7	11	5	10	1	3	1	39
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	6
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	3
Chickenpox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Par) ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	—	—	3	1	3	—	1	8
Undulant Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Abortus Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>9</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>223</b>

# DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES

Disease	Highworth	Stratton	Chiseldon	Haydon Wick	South Marston	Wroughton	Liddington	Bishopstone	Blunsdon	Castle Eaton	Hannington	Inglesham	Stanton Fitzwarren	Wanborough	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	13	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	17
Whooping Cough	—	24	39	—	—	57	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	122
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	8	1	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
Pneumonia	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	7
Menigococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Dysentery	—	—	2	—	—	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Chickenpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polioomyelitis (Par)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Abortus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTAL	1	53	43	1	1	113	1	—	3	2	—	—	—	4	223

**Scarlet Fever:** A sharp decline compared with the 1951 figure is noteworthy. Generally speaking the disease continued of a mild nature without complications.

**Whooping Cough:** A marked increase, in keeping with the general rise throughout the country, was recorded, particularly affecting the 1—5 and 5—15 year age groups.

**Diphtheria:** No case was notified.

**Measles:** Compared with 375 in 1951, only 14 cases were recorded.

**Cerebro-spinal Meningitis:** The 3 cases recorded did not occur in the civilian population.

**Dysentery:** The incidence increased to 39 compared with 25 for the previous year. Of these, 37 were notified from Wroughton Parish at intervals during the year and no definite source of infection could be traced.

**Smallpox:** No cases.

**Typhoid Fever:** Only one case was notified and infection likely took place during a camping expedition in a neighbouring County.

**Poliomyelitis:** One case, unfortunately fatal, occurred in an adult member of H.M. Forces.

**Food Poisoning:** Of the eight cases, five occurred in one family. The course of infection was likely to be cooked ox tongue, of which none could be obtained for examination.

**Undulant and Abortus Fever:** Both cases were in persons engaged on dairy farms.

**TUBERCULOSIS**  
**New Cases**

Year				No. of cases
1952	...	...	...	32
1951	...	...	...	29
1950	...	...	...	22
1949	...	...	...	36



Distribution of new cases and deaths according to age and sex is as follows:—

Age	New cases Male	Male Deaths	New cases Female	Female Deaths	Total	
					New cases	Deaths
Under 1 yr. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 yrs. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 yrs. ...	1	—	—	—	1	—
15-25 yrs ...	3	—	7	—	10	—
25-35 yrs ...	7	—	4	2	11	2
35-45 yrs. ...	1	—	2	—	3	—
45-55 yrs. ...	1	—	3	1	4	1
55-65 yrs. ...	2	—	—	—	2	—
65 and over	—	—	—	1	—	1
Unknown age	1	—	—	—	1	—
<b>Total</b> ...	16	—	16	4	32	4

### Housing of Tuberculosis Patients.

During the year seven cases were referred by the Chest Physician for consideration for re-housing and two were re-housed. These cases are classified as follows:—

**Certificate No. 1.** Sputum-positive cases where re-housing is considered urgent for the prevention of infection.

**Certificate No. 2.** Where better housing would be desirable in order to improve and maintain the patients health.

**Certificate No. 3.** Where improved housing would be beneficial but is not an urgent matter.

The following is a summary of the cases dealt with during the year.

Type of Case				No. cases referred	No. cases rehoused
Certificate No. 1	...	...	...	5	1
Certificate No. 2	...	...	...	2	1
Certificate No. 3	...	...	...	—	—
TOTAL	...	...	...	7	2

**Tuberculosis:** The figure of 32 cases shows an increase of 3 over the 1951 figure. The question of re-housing all cases is constantly examined by the Housing Accommodation Committee and it is likely that the greater portion of cases will be favourably considered during 1953.



## **GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT**

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

The Swindon Area Pathological Laboratory of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board caters for the needs of the District.

### **Hospital Facilities.**

These are the responsibility of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

The Main general hospitals are situated at Stratton St. Margaret and Swindon, which also provides accommodation for Maternity cases in a separate institution.

Infectious diseases are admitted to the Area Isolation Hospital, Swindon while the nearest Smallpox Hospital is located at Reading. Cases under the National Assistance Act, 1948 are admitted to Elm Court, Stratton St. Margaret.

### **Other Facilities.**

The arrangements for the following health services operating in the District are made by the County Health Committee:—

Care of expectant and nursing mothers, and young children;

Domiciliary Midwifery;

Health Visiting;

Home Nursing;

Vaccination and immunisation;

Ambulances and ambulance cars;

Domestic helps;

Services under Part III of the National Health Service Act for the prevention of illness; care and after-care; health education.

Mental Health Service.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Immunisation is carried out by General Practitioners and Council Medical Officers and the following table gives details for the year under review:—

Age Groups	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15
Primary imms. completed during 1952 ...	130		94				60	284
Reinf. inj.s. administered during 1952 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	322
Total immunised child population at 31st Dec., 1952 ...	20	158	178	190	217	1501	1365	3629

Compared with 1951 the number of primary immunisations declined from 412 to 284. Similarly, the number of re-inforcing injections administered decreased from 539 to 322. Also, the total immunised child population at the end of the year was 3629 compared with 3475. Despite the absence of any cases of the disease this state of affairs is far from satisfactory as a high level of immunity to prevent a recurrence of the disease can only be maintained by immunisation.

## VACCINATION

Age Group	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over
Vaccinations ...	85	8	12	7	7
Re-Vaccinations	—	—	2	7	39

Once again it is disappointing to record the apathy of parents regarding protection against smallpox by vaccination. The increased figure of 40% of corrected live births protected during 1951 fell to 21% for 1952.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

### Section 47, Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in need of Care and Attention.

During the year several cases were investigated and transfer affected. It is pleasing to report that it was not found necessary to resort to compulsion in any case.

REPORT OF THE  
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND  
HOUSING OFFICER

---

To: The Chairman and Members of the

HIGHWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report on the sanitary administration carried out by my Department during the year 1952. The report is in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 2/53.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman of the Council, and the Chairmen of the various Committees, and all Members of the Council for their continued support and for their kindness and assistance in carrying out my work during the year.

I would also like to record my thanks to the members of my staff for their loyalty and work carried out during last year, for without this loyalty and hard work this report would not reflect so much credit on either myself or my Council. My thanks are also due to the Medical Officer for his assistance and help during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. UNDERWOOD,

Senior Sanitary Inspector,  
and Housing Officer.

# SECTION ONE

## SANITATION

### Number and Nature of Inspections made during 1952.

					Year	
					1951	1952
Rural Housing Survey	...	...	...	...	5	68
No. detailed inspections made for housing complaints						
under the Public Health and Housing Acts	...				181	409
Drainage of property	...	...	...	...	187	242
Dirty and verminous premises			...	...	32	34
Requisitioned property	...	...	...	...	20	39
Council house applications	...	...	...	...	775	761
Interviews with owners and builders	...	...	...	...	122	182
Applications for Civil Building Licences	...	...	...	...	55	170
Suitability of domestic water supplies	...	...	...	...	91	525
Sampling of water supplies	...	...	...	...	72	122
Food premises	...	...	...	...	208	233
Camps and squatters	...	...	...	...	104	141
Ice cream production	...	...	...	...	47	80
Tents, vans and sheds	...	...	...	...	260	345
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	47	241
Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	8	94
Factories Act 1937	...	...	...	...	137	148
Rats and mice destruction	...	...	...	...	819	599
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	44	74
Knackers yard	...	...	...	...	42	46
Ditches and streams	...	...	...	...	40	155
Under Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	33	6
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	69	67
Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders	...	...	...	...	107	122
Refuse collection and disposal	...	...	...	...	163	324
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	83	151
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	85	221
Miscellaneous unspecified	...	...	...	...	168	254
Meat inspection	...	...	...	...	160	310
Lodgers	...	...	...	...	37	29
Schools	...	...	...	...	6	26
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	2	1
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	41	68
					<hr/>	<hr/>
					4260	6287
					<hr/>	<hr/>



### DETAILS OF NO. OF HOUSES AND ESTIMATED

Parish	Est. pop.	No. of houses	Direct to house		From Standpipes			
			No. hses.	Est. pop.	% pop.	No. hses.	Est. pop.	% pop.
Bishopstone	630	191	35	130	20.6	8	32	5.0
Blunsdon St. Andrew	1105	328	211	711	64.3	25	86	7.8
Castle Eaton	235	66	25	98	41.7	23	92	39.1
Chisledon	2100	507	358	1512	72.0	6	10	0.5
Hannington	245	72	34	116	47.3	8	28	11.4
Haydon Wick	435	186	163	380	87.3	nil	nil	—
Highworth	3510	926	750	2850	81.2	34	121	4.0
Inglesham	150	48	36	112	75.0	2	7	4.0
Liddington	360	112	64	200	55.0	25	84	23.0
South Marston	490	177	125	360	73.5	nil	nil	—
Stanton Fitzwarren	170	58	42	105	62.0	1	3	2.0
Stratton St. Margaret	7540	2139	2109	7382	97.9	nil	nil	—
Wanborough	1210	314	224	896	74.0	8	36	3.0
Wroughton	3150	947	827	2729	86.5	20	63	2.0
TOTAL	21330	6071	5103	17581	82.4	160	562	2.7

## SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY

Parish	Water Undertakers	Details of Supply
Bishopstone ...	1. Ecclesiastical Comm. ... 2. H.R.D.C. ...	1. From spring which rises on the Downs and gravitates to the pumps sited at rear of the Mill. Then pumped to reservoirs at Lamney Down and gravitates to distribution mains. Chlorinated. 2. Borehole at Ham Road, Wanborough. Chlorinated.
Blunsdon St. Andrew	H.R.D.C. ...	Supplied from Swindon Corporation. Borehole at Latton. Chlorinated.
Castle Eaton ...	H.R.D.C. ...	Supplied from Cricklade and Wootton Bassett R.D.C. Borehole at Ashton Keynes. Chlorinated.
Chisledon ...	H.R.D.C. ...	Supplied from Swindon Corporation supply. Borehole at Ogbourne St. George. Chlorinated.
Hannington ...	H.R.D.C. ...	Supplied from Swindon Corporation supply. Borehole at Latton. Chlorinated.
Haydon Wick ...	Swindon B.C. ...	Supplied from Swindon Corporation supply. Borehole at Latton. Chlorinated.
Highworth ...	1. H.R.D.C. ... 2. Ministry of Supply	1. Supplied from Swindon Corporation supply. Borehole at Latton. Chlorinated. 2. SEVENHAMPTON ONLY supplied from borehole. Chlorinated.
South Marston ...	H.R.D.C. ...	Supplied from Swindon Corporation supply. Borehole at Latton. Chlorinated.
Inglesham ...	H.R.D.C. ...	Supplied from Swindon Corporation supply. Borehole at Latton. Chlorinated.
Liddington ...	H.R.D.C. ...	Borehole at Ham Road, Wanborough. Chlorinated.
Stanton Fitzwarren ...	H.R.D.C. ...	Supplied from Swindon Corporation Borehole at Latton. Chlorinated.
Stratton St. Margaret	Swindon B.C. ...	Borehole at Latton. Chlorinated.
Wanborough ...	H.R.D.C. ...	Borehole at Ham Road, Wanborough. Chlorinated.
Wroughton ...	1. H.R.D.C. ... 2. Swindon B.C. ...	1. Borehole at Gabodurne supplies approximately 1/3 of parish. Chlorinated. 2. Remainder supplied from Swindon Corp'n. water derived Ogbourne St. George. Chlorinated.

## **WATER ACT NOTICES AUTHORISED DURING 1952.**

Number Authorised at January Committee	3
„ „ „ June „	10
„ „ „ August „	4
„ „ „ September „	10
„ „ „ October „	4
	—
Total authorised during year	31
	—

Of the total Water Act notices authorised only 30 were served, as work was commenced in one case before a notice could be issued.

## **WATER ACT 1945, SECTION 30.**

### **Notices complied with 1952.**

16 St. Phillips Road, Stratton.  
17 St. Phillips Road, Stratton.  
12 Beechcroft Road, Stratton.  
14 Beechcroft Road, Stratton  
4 Dore Road, Stratton.  
5 Dore Road, Stratton.  
6 Dore Road, Stratton.  
9 St. Phillips Road, Stratton.  
Palmer's Cottage, Groundwell Road, Blunsdon.  
Rose Cottage, Hyde Road, Blunsdon.  
83 Hyde Road, Blunsdon.  
85 Hyde Road, Blunsdon.  
87 Hyde Road, Blunsdon.  
Springfield Cottage, Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon.  
Lancaster's Cottage, Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon.  
Tuck's Cottage, Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon.  
4 Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon.  
Osmanton, Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon.  
Elsdwin, Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon.  
Bird's Cottage, Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon.  
2 Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon.  
5 Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon.  
Lilac Cottage, Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon.  
Upper Farm, Hinton Parva.  
Hillside Cottage, Hinton Parva  
Treadwell's Cottage, Hinton Parva.  
Church's Cottage, Hinton Parva  
Surman's Cottage, Hinton Parva.  
West Hinton Farm Hinton Parva.  
H. Hatches Cottage, Hinton Parva.  
St. Katherine's Cottage, Bishopstone.  
Miss Elliott's Cottage, Bishopstone.



## WATER CONNECTIONS MADE 1952.

Total Number of connections made by H.R.D.C.	-	116
"    "    "    "    "    "    Swindon Borough		51
"    "    "    "    "    "    "    "    "		
(to new properties)	-	102
		<hr/> 269

## WATER SAMPLES TAKEN

### Bacteriological.

Public Supplies	...	...	30
Private Supplies	...	...	6
Individual Supplies		...	73
			<hr/>
		TOTAL	109

## Chemical.

Public Supplies	...	...	9
Private Supplies	...	...	2
Individual Supplies		...	2
			<hr/>
		TOTAL	13

Total Samples taken, 122.

## DETAILS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF WATER SUPPLIES

## BISHOPSTONE SUPPLY

**Appearance.** No colour or smell. Clear and bright.

**Reaction.** pH 7.3

				Parts per Million.
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.028
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.008
Chlorine (as Chlorides)	...	...	...	11
equivalent to Sodium Chloride			...	16
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.)	...	...	...	0.39
Nitrite	...	...	...	Absent
Nitrogen in Nitrite and Nitrate	...	...	...	1.7
Total Solids	...	...	...	305
Loss on ignition	...	...	...	5
Appearance on ignition	...	...	...	No charring
Hardness. Temporary	...	...	...	221
Permanent	...	...	...	45
Total	...	...	...	266
Lead and Copper	...	...	...	Absent



**HAM ROAD, WANBOROUGH**

**Appearance.** No colour or smell. Bright and clear.

**Reaction.** pH 7.06

				Parts per Million.
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	41
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.034
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.024
Chlorine (as Chlorides)	...	...	...	13
equivalent to Sodium Chloride			...	22
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs).	...	...	...	0.58
Nitrite	...	...	...	Absent
Nitrogen in Nitrite and Nitrate	...	...	...	3.3
Total Solids	...	...	...	435
Loss on ignition	...	...	...	30
Appearance on ignition	...	...	...	Very slight charring
Hardness. Temporary	...	...	...	320
Permanent	...	...	...	30
Total				350
Lead and Copper	...	...	...	Absent

**ASHTON KEYNES SUPPLY.**

**Appearance.** Bright and clear. No colour or smell.

**Reaction.** pH 7.6

**Free Chlorine.** Absent.

				Parts per Million.
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	13
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.05
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.037
Chlorine (as Chlorides)	...	...	...	14
equivalent to Sodium Chloride			...	23
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.)	...	...	...	0.39
Nitrite	...	...	...	Absent
Nitrogen in Nitrite and Nitrate	...	...	...	1.2
Total Solids	...	...	...	370
Loss on ignition	...	...	...	25
Appearance on ignition	...	...	...	Very slight darkening
Hardness. Temporary	...	...	...	251
Permanent	...	...	...	14
Total				265
Lead and Copper	...	...	...	Absent

## LATTON SUPPLY.

**Appearance.** No colour in depth, or smell. Bright.

**Reaction.** pH 7.2

**Free Chlorine.** Absent.

				Parts per Million.
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	23
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	Less than 0.004
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.004
Chlorine (as Chlorides)	...	...	...	23
equivalent to Sodium Chloride	...	...	...	38
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.)	...	...	...	0.14
Nitrite	...	...	...	Absent
Nitrogen in Nitrite and Nitrate	...	...	...	Less than 0.1
Total Solids	...	...	...	395
Loss on ignition	...	...	...	5
Appearance on ignition	...	...	...	No charring
Hardness. Temporary	...	...	...	291
Permanent	...	...	...	25
Total				316
Lead and Copper	...	...	...	Absent

## GADBOURNE SUPPLY

**Appearance.** No colour or smell. Bright and clear.

**Reaction.** pH 7.05

**Free Chlorine.** Absent.

				Parts per Million.
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	9
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.03
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.02
Chlorine (as Chlorides)	...	...	...	13
equivalent to Sodium Chloride	...	...	...	22
Oxygen absorbed. (4 hrs.)	...	...	...	0.54
Nitrite	...	...	...	Absent
Nitrogen in Nitrite and Nitrate	...	...	...	0.6
Total Solids	...	...	...	480
Loss on ignition	...	...	...	20
Appearance on ignition	...	...	...	Very slight charring
Total Alkalinity calculated as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	374
Total Hardness. (all temporary)	...	...	...	223
Lead and Copper	...	...	...	Absent

**OGBOURNE ST. GEORGE SUPPLY.**

**Appearance.** No colour or smell. Bright and clear.

**Reaction.** pH 7.06

**Free Chlorine.** Absent.

					Parts per Million.
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	44
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.02
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.12
Chlorine (as Chlorides)	...	...	...	...	13
equivalent to Sodium Chloride	...	...	...	...	22
Oxygen absorbed. (4 hrs.)	...	...	...	...	0.70
Nitrite	...	...	...	...	Faint trace
Nitrogen in Nitrite and Nitrate	...	...	...	...	3.0
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	440
Loss on ignition	...	...	...	...	35
Appearance on ignition	...	...	...	...	Slight charring
Hardness. Temporary	...	...	...	...	324
Permanent	...	...	...	...	34
Total					358.
Lead	...	...	...	...	Absent
Copper	...	...	...	...	0.75



# REPORT ON SAMPLES OF WATER SUBMITTED FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION. INDIVIDUAL SUPPLIES.

Parish	Where Taken	Result	Action Taken
S. Marston	1 Rowborough Cotts.	Unsatisfactory	Reported to Committee and Owners/Occupiers notified Mains not available
S. Marston	The Quest	Unsatisfactory	
S. Marston	The Carpenters Arms	Unsatisfactory	
S. Marston	Acorn Cottage	Unsatisfactory	
S. Marston	The White House	Unsatisfactory	
S. Marston	4 River Cotts.	Unsatisfactory	
S. Marston	Acorn Bridge Farm	Unsatisfactory	
S. Marston	4 Manor Cotts.	Unsatisfactory	
S. Marston	Longleaze Farm	Unsatisfactory	Now connected to mains Owner/Occupiers notif.
S. Marston	Lower Copse	Unsatisfactory	
S. Marston	4 River Cotts.	Unsatisfactory	Reported to Committee. Owners/Occupiers notified. Mains not available
S. Marston	Oaklands	Unsatisfactory	
S. Marston	The Elms	Suspicious	
S. Marston	Home Farm Cotts.	Unsatisfactory	
S. Marston	Marston Farm	Suspicious	
S. Marston	The Bungalow	Suspicious	
S. Marston	Home Farm	Unsatisfactory	
Blunsdon	Ringstones	Unsatisfactory	
Stratton	8 Hyde Road	Unsatisfactory	Owner notified Connected to mains Owner notified Connected to mains
Highworth	Round Robin Farm	Unsatisfactory	Reported to Committee Check samples taken
Highworth	Round Robin Farm	Suspicious	
Stratton	62 Hyde Road	Unsatisfactory	Reported to Committee Owner/Occupiers notified. Now connected to mains. Check sample taken
Stratton	60 Hyde Road	Unsatisfactory	
Stratton	58 Hyde Road	Unsatisfactory	
Stratton	22 Hyde Road	Unsatisfactory	
Stratton	49 Hyde Road	Unsatisfactory	
Stratton	56 Hyde Road	Suspicious	
S. Marston	Vickers Armstrong Ltd.	Highly Satisfactory	Owners notified
S. Marston	Vickers Armstrong Ltd.	Highly Satisfactory	Owners notified
S. Marston	Vickers Armstrong Ltd.	Highly Satisfactory	Owners notified
Stratton	56 Hyde Road	Unsatisfactory	Owners/Occupiers notified. Now connected to mains.
Stratton	1 Station Road	Unsatisfactory	
Stratton	2 Station Road	Unsatisfactory	
Highworth	Round Robin Farm	Highly Satisfactory	Reported to Committee
Highworth	Round Robin Farm	Highly Satisfactory	
Liddington	The Caravan, Ridgeway	Highly Satisfactory	None
Chisledon	21 Badbury	Suspicious	
Stratton	5 Dores Road	Unsatisfactory	Reported to Committee Reported to Committee Owners/Occupiers notified. Now connected to mains.
Stratton	48 Dores Road	Unsatisfactory	
Stratton	9 Green Road	Unsatisfactory	
Stratton	4 Green Road	Unsatisfactory	
Blunsdon	Palmers Cottage	Unsatisfactory	Reported to Committee Owner/occupiers notified. Now connected to mains.
	Groundwell Road		
Blunsdon	Groundwell Rd. Cotts.	Unsatisfactory	
Hannington	The Jolly Tar	Unsatisfactory	Owner/occupiers notified. Now connected to mains.
Blunsdon	The Mount	Unsatisfactory	
Wroughton	Elcombe House	Unsatisfactory	



Parish	Where taken	Result	Action Taken
Wroughton	Odeys Cott.	Unsatisfactory	Owner/occupier notified. Mains not available.
S. Marston	Pigeon House	Unsatisfactory	Owner/occupier notified.
Blunsdon	Upper Widhill Lane	Unsatisfactory	Owner/occupier notified.
Blunsdon	Groundwell Rd. Cotts.	Unsatisfactory	Owner/occupiers notified. Now connected to mains.
Blunsdon	87 Hyde Road	Unsatisfactory	Owner/occupiers notified. Now connected to mains.
Blunsdon	Lacock Hyde Road	Unsatisfactory	Owner notified.
B'stone	Hillside Cott. Hinton Parva	Suspicious	Owner/occupiers notified. Now connected to mains.
B'stone	Upper Farm, Hinton Parva	Unsatisfactory	Owner/occupiers notified. Now connected to mains.
B'stone	Woodbine Cott., Hinton Parva	Unsatisfactory	Owner/occupiers notified. Now connected to mains.
B'stone	The Grove, Hinton Parva	Unsatisfactory	Owner/occupier notified. Water Act notices served.
B'stone	Fair View Hinton Parva	Unsatisfactory	Owner/occupiers notified. Now connected to mains.
B'stone	St. Katherine's Cottage	Unsatisfactory	Owner/occupiers notified. Now connected to mains.
B'stone	(Miss Elliott) Eastbrook	Suspicious	Owner/occupier notified. Now connected to mains.
B'stone	1 Elm Cottages, Hinton Parva	Unsatisfactory	} Owner/occupiers notified. Now connected to mains.
B'stone	2 Elm Cottages, Hinton Parva	Unsatisfactory	
B'stone	Treadwells Cottage,	Unsatisfactory	
Stratton	9 St. Phillips Road	Unsatisfactory	Owner/occupier notified. Now connected to mains.
Blunsdon	Hyde Farm, Hyde Rd.	Unsatisfactory	Owner notified. Now connected to mains.
Blunsdon	Little Coster Farm	Satisfactory	Nil
Blunsdon	Farm Piece	1. Unsatisfactory	} Owner/occupier notified. Reported to Committee.
Blunsdon	Farm Piece	2. Unsatisfactory	
Blunsdon	Farm Piece	3. Unsatisfactory	

Parish	Where Taken	Result	Action Taken
B'stone	Poveys Cottage Little Hinton	Unsatisfactory	Owner/occupier notified. Now connected to mains.
Stratton S. Marston	20 Hyde Road Marston Farm	Unsatisfactory Unsatisfactory	Owner/occupier notified. Mains not available.
S. Marston	The Bungalow	Suspicious	Owner notified. Mains not available.
B'stone	West Hinton Farm, Hinton Parva	Unsatisfactory	Owner notified.

### PRIVATE SUPPLIES. BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Parish	Where Taken	Result	Action taken
Highworth	Standtap on Roadside (The Street, Svnhmptn.)	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Chisledon	18, 19, 20 Hodson	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Wanboro'	3 Foxhill Cottages	Satisfactory	Nil
B'stone	The Rails	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
B'stone	Standtap, W. End Cotts.		Nil
Highworth	Standtap on Roadside The Street, Svnhmptn.		Nil

### PUBLIC SUPPLIES. BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Parish	Where Taken	Result	Action taken
Wroughton	41 Wharf Road	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Chisledon	16 Station Road	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Liddington	Standtap in roadway	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Wanboro'	Ambrose Cottage	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
S. Marston	1 Council Houses	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Highworth	16 Downs View	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Inglesham	5 Lynt Road	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Hanningtn.	2 Vicarage Road	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
C. Eaton	Standtap in roadway	Highly satisfactory	Nil
Stratton	46 Kingsdown Road	Highly satisfactory	Nil
H. Wick	9 High Street	Highly satisfactory	Nil
Hanningtn.	Standtap nr. Jolly Tar	Highly satisfactory	Nil
Wroughton	5 Wroughton Hall	Highly satisfactory	Nil
Wroughton	3 Brimble Hill	Highly satisfactory	Nil
Chisledon	37 Station Road	Highly satisfactory	Nil
Wanboro'	Ambrose Cottage	Suspicious	Check sample taken
S. Marston	1 Greenfields	Highly satisfactory	Nil
Highworth	Standtap nr. 6 Eastrop	Highly satisfactory	Nil
Stratton	21 Beechcroft Road	Highly satisfactory	Nil
Wanboro'	Ambrose Cottage	Satisfactory	Nil
Wanboro'	Southlands	Satisfactory	Nil
Stratton	Lyndhurst, Highworth Road	Highly satisfactory	Nil
Blunsdon	Hyde Farm, Hyde Rd.	Highly satisfactory	Nil
Chisledon	5 School Close	Highly satisfactory	Nil
Wroughton	Standtap, Church Hill	Satisfactory	Nil
Chisledon	41 Station Road	Highly satisfactory	Nil
Wanboro'	Headlands, Ham Road	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
S. Marston	2 Greenfields	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Highworth	9 Cherry Orchard	Highly Satisfactory	Nil
Inglesham	Lynt Farm Cottages	Highly Satisfactory	Nil



## WATER SUPPLY GENERALLY

The amount of water being used daily is increasing yearly. During 1952 consumption through the Blunsdon meter increased by 19,000 gallons per day over 1951, making a total of 150,000 gallons used daily as compared with 84,000 gallons per day in 1947. The reasons for the increase are, the increased consumption by the factories in the area, the water main which was extended from the "Cold Harbour" Inn, to Hyde Road is now in full use, the farmers' consumption is on the increase due to a wholesome supply of water being essential for attested milk production, and the fact that a number of new houses, especially at South Marston and Highworth, have been connected to the mains. The above figure is likely to increase as the years go by.

It will be of interest that the total consumption for the area supplied by the Highworth Rural District Council is in the region of a quarter of a million gallons per day, which area excludes Stratton St. Margaret, Haydon Wick, Bishopstone, and part of Wroughton.

During the year a scheme was prepared to give a supply to three farm units at South Marston namely, Nightingale Farm, Roves Farm, and Prior's Farley Farm. This scheme has received the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the supply will be made available during 1953.

Owing to the water supply to Little Hinton being intermittent, the Council have given the Surveyor instructions to prepare a scheme for extending the water main to this hamlet during 1953.

The Surveyor has been given instructions by the Council to prepare a scheme for supplying mains water to the hamlet of Sevenhampton in the Parish of Highworth, and it is hoped that this work will be proceeded with during the year 1953.

Instructions have also been given to the Surveyor to prepare a scheme for the extension of the water main from a point near Manor Cottages, South Marston to the properties in the Acorn Bridge area, but owing to the delay in the delivery of pipes this scheme is likely to be delayed approximately 18 months to 2 years.

During the year a Public Enquiry was held into the Council's northern scheme for supplying water from bore holes at Ashton Keynes in the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett area to a reservoir and elevated tower at Blunsdon. This scheme has received approval in principle by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, subject to the deletion of main extensions in one or two instances which were not considered of urgent need.

Supplies have been maintained without difficulty, and apart from the usual burst mains the water supply has been constant throughout.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Council's Engineer has prepared a scheme for the re-drainage of Stratton St. Margaret which has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and received approval in principle. The scheme as approved includes for the drainage to be discharged into the new central interceptor sewer to be constructed by the Swindon Corporation subject to satisfactory terms being agreed upon. To enable the increased flow to the Stratton Sewage works to be dealt with a considerable amount of re-grading of the land used for irrigation has been carried out.

The scheme prepared for the laying of a link sewer between the Eastrop and Westrop Sewage Works has now been completed, and the Eastrop Works are now only used during periods of storm to deal with the excess flow. The scheme was cut owing to the Government's economy policy and the tank which was erected at Westrop Works is not sufficient to give adequate treatment to the effluent, and additional works will have to be carried out at these Works within a very short period.

The Council gave instructions to the Engineer and Surveyor to prepare a scheme for the laying of a new sewer through Westrop to replace an old drock sewer which was rat infested and a nuisance under the Public Health Act. The scheme as prepared was submitted to the Ministry and approval given for the work to be commenced in 1953.

As a result of a report made to the Public Health Committee by the Sanitary Inspector, the Engineer and Surveyor was given instructions to prepare a scheme of sewerage and sewage for the Parish of Castle Eaton. Two schemes were prepared, one for providing Works as a temporary measure which would cost just over £2,000 and the other for a new scheme costing in the region of £7,500. The Ministry gave little hope of the new scheme being agreed to, and recommended the Council to prepare details of the temporary scheme and submit same to the Minister for consideration.

In view of the urgent need for the provision of a garage and depot for use by the refuse vehicles, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have been pressed to allow the erection of same, although this was originally turned down owing to the Government's economy policy, and it would appear that approval is likely to be given for the erection of same in early 1953.



**PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936, SECTION 269.**  
**MOVEABLE DWELLINGS**

Number of Licences operative as at 31st December 1952	...	...	...	...	59
Number of site licences operative as at 31st December, 1952	...	...	...	...	3
				(20 vans)	
Number of inspections carried out	...	...	...	...	344

In the case of this side of the inspectional work it will be observed that a great increase in the number of visits took place. This was partly due to visits to vans for 42 consecutive days in order that evidence could be obtained for prosecution. Much time was also spent on checking casual caravans coming into the district and checking the situation of licensed caravans.

There are now three licensed sites within the district but only two are in full operation, the other still being in the course of preparation. This latter site should be in operation in a limited capacity during 1953. Work is proceeding rapidly however. The other two sites were conducted in a satisfactory manner and improvements were effected.

**NUMBER OF CARAVANS LICENSED**

1949	...	...	21
1950	...	...	46
1951	...	...	67
1952	...	...	79

Details as to the number of caravans at present in use in Parishes are as follows:—

Bishopstone	...	2	Liddington	...	1
Blunsdon St. Andrew	14		Stratton St. Margaret	25	
Chiseldon	...	4	South Marston	...	—
Castle Eaton	...	1	Wanborough	...	2
Highworth	...	7	Wroughton	...	13
Inglesham	...	10			

**Total all Parishes 79 caravans. (Which includes  
caravans on licensed sites).**

## **FACTORIES ACT 1937.**

During the year every factory in the Rural District was inspected under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, and all contraventions or defects notified to the owners.

### **List of Factories in the District.**

Type of Work carried out	Number
Aero Manufacturers and repairs ...	2
Agricultural Crop Drying ...	3
Animal Residuals ...	1
Bakers and confectioners ...	13
Brewing and Aerated waters ...	1
Brickmaking ...	1
Bacon Curing ...	1
Blacksmiths ...	4
Boot Repairs ...	4
Concrete Block Making ...	1
Clock Assembly ...	1
Electronics ...	1
Engineering, including Motor vehicle repairs ...	30
Food Canning ...	1
Founders and Welders ...	1
Gut Scraper ...	1
Joinery, woodwork, undertaking and wheelwrights ...	20
Letter file Manufacturer ...	1
Mat and Rug Manufacturer ...	1
Metal sorting ...	2
Paper Baling ...	1
Radio and television repairs ...	1
Saddlers ...	2
Sausage making ...	1
Tailoring ...	2
Upholstering ...	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98</b>

## **OUTWORKERS.**

During the year no outworkers were notified to the Authority.

## **INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.**

During the year every school in the District was visited and inspected. These visits also embraced the school kitchens etc., and while some schools had minor defects, many had more serious ones. These defects and lack of suitable or sufficient water closet and washing accommodation are being brought to the attention of the County Council.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS.**

It will be noted that the number of visits in connection with infectious diseases rose rapidly during the year. The reason for this rapid rise was the following up of the first investigation in the cases of dysentery and food poisoning, by at least three other visits in order to collect faeces samples and conveying same to the Pathological Laboratory for examination.

Altogether 65 cases of infectious diseases were investigated during the year, and the table below will give the diseases in parish order.

Parish	Diseases
Wroughton ... ..	37 Dysentery, 1 Undulant Fever, 1 Typhoid Fever, 6 Food Poisoning
Wanborough ... ..	1 Scarlet Fever
Stratton St. Maragaret ... ..	13 Scarlet Fever
South Marston ... ..	1 Poliomyelitis
Liddington ... ..	1 Scarlet Fever
Chisledon ... ..	1 Dysentery
Castle Eaton ... ..	1 Scarlet Fever
Blunsdon St. Andrew ... ..	1 Food Poisoning
Bishopstone ... ..	1 Undulant Fever

**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948. SECTION 50.**

During the year arrangements were made for the burial of two persons under the above Act, but the responsibility for the burial of one person was afterwards taken over by representatives of the Polish Ex-Combatants Association.

This compares very favourably with 1951 when five burials were arranged by this Department.

## PETROLEUM CONSOLIDATION ACTS 1928 & 1936.

Total number of licences issued to store petroleum spirit	...	...	...	...	72
Total number of licences issued to store carbide of calcium	...	...	...	...	1
Total number of inspections carried out during 1952	...	...	...	...	129

During the course of the year a special inspection was made of all filling stations, and notices sent to the occupants of each to provide fire fighting equipment and to exhibit danger notices with instructions "Switch Off Engine" "No Smoking" and the words "Highly Inflammable" painted upon them. In all cases the notices were complied with.

One very interesting case occurred during the year which was successfully dealt with by the Department. A complaint was received from the occupier of a house situated next to a filling station that petrol fumes and what appeared to be petrol was draining into his cellar and could be smelled throughout the house. An immediate investigation was made and a sample taken of the fluid, which definitely contained petroleum. The source of the trouble was found and certain works carried out under the supervision of this Department. This effected a complete cure of the trouble and what appeared to be a very serious situation was averted.



**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.**  
**PREVALENCE OF RATS AND MICE MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITY**

Property	No. of properties in Area in which infestation was notified by:			No. of properties treated by Local Authority	No. of inspections made	No. of Notices served under Section 4		Analysis of total no. infested by		
	Occupier	Otherwise discovered	Total			Treat-ment	Work	Rats		Mice
								Major	Minor	
Council's property— Dwellings ...	7	1	8	8	28	—	6	—	5	3
Sewage Works, tips, etc.	10	—	10	10	87	—	—	8	1	1
Dwelling houses ...	61	2	63	63	247	—	3	6	54	3
Business Premises ...	12	1	13	13	95	—	2	8	4	1
Agricultural properties	—	27	27	—	45	—	—	8	19	—
Block treatments ...	7	—	7	27	37	—	—	—	—	—
Sewers ...	—	—	—	5	10	—	—	—	—	—
No. of manholes treated	—	—	—	73	—	—	—	—	—	—

## **RODENT CONTROL.**

During 1952 the anti-blood coagulant "Warfarin" was extensively tested. Results obtained were far in advance of any other rodenticide, enabling infestations to be completely cleared, and halving the number of visits by the rodent operator, with consequent reduction of cost in both time and mileage.

Infestations which had been established for years and necessitated frequent heavy treatments, which could never be said to be wholly effective, have now been wiped out, and regular inspection, together with the maintenance of suitable baiting points, ensures that no opportunity is given for infestation to recur.

The effectiveness of "Warfarin" switches the emphasis from the clearance to the prevention of recurrence, and it is here that the owner or occupier of the property must play his part.

The inspection of farms was commenced in the Spring, and altogether 45 properties were visited. Of these, only 8 were heavily infested. Measures are being taken by the occupiers either by themselves, or through contractors, to deal with these infestations. Where a farmer is prepared to carry out his own treatment, my rodent operator will advise him how to use "Warfarin." Those farmers who have used "Warfarin" express complete satisfaction with the results and it is hoped that others not yet acquainted with its effectiveness, will ultimately be persuaded to adopt this method of dealing with infestations.

## **VERMIN, CONTROL OF**

27 premises were treated by the usual insecticides, and with the usual fumigants, for the following:

Fleas—8. Wasps—5. Flies—2. Ants—2. Beetles—1.  
Infectious diseases—9.

Applications of Gammexane were given to the Council's refuse tips throughout the year, in order to prevent any serious infestation.

## **REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.**

Refuse collection has been maintained by a staff of three drivers, and six other workmen, operating 2 Dennis and 1 Fordson vehicles. Ever increasing development in the District is thrusting a proportionately heavier load upon the refuse collection service, which is at present already operating at the maximum possible efficiency, and it is apparent that it will be necessary for the Council to acquire a larger capacity vehicle within the near future if the present state of efficiency is to be ensured.

A weekly collection, using the curbside method, has been maintained throughout the year. The refuse tips at Highworth and Wroughton continue to provide facilities for tipping. Every endeavour is made to keep the tips in a tidy and controlled condition and comparison with other tips will give a very favourable impression. The area in the vicinity of the houses at North Wroughton has now been filled and consolidated, and no other difficulties are anticipated.

**Details of Refuse Collected**

Blunsdon St. Andrew	...	446	cubic yards
Bishopstone	... ..	112	" "
Castle Eaton	... ..	72	" "
Chisledon	... ..	900	" "
Hannington	... ..	81	" "
Haydon Wick	... ..	452	" "
Highworth	... ..	1888	" "
Inglesham	... ..	80	" "
Liddington	... ..	113	" "
South Marston	... ..	266	" "
Stanton Fitzwarren	... ..	84	" "
Stratton St. Margaret	... ..	3824	" "
Wanborough	... ..	246	" "
Wroughton	... ..	1536	" "

**TOTAL**    10,100 cubic yards

**SALVAGE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

A glance at the table shown below will make it apparent that although an increased volume of salvage has been collected and disposed of, the severe drop in price has created a considerable difference in the revenue. Further, the latest developments in the paper market indicate that there will shortly be no further demand for any such material, and in consequence the general rate will be deprived of an asset which has been of considerable assistance.

				1952				1951			
				Weight		Value		Weight		Value	
				T. C. Q. lbs.	£	s.	d.	T. C. Q. lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	...	...	...	69 16 — 7	539	17	1	59 11 — —	870	4	10
Rags	...	...	...	2 9 — 12	40	14	8	2 8 1 1	81	19	1
Sacking	...	...	...	2 4 3 9	15	4	3	1 1 — 20	17	18	10
Non Ferrous Metals (other than tin)	...	...	...	— — — —	—	—	—	— 2 3 11	16	16	11
Ferrous metals	...	...	...	5 9 1 —	18	4	—	8 16 1 —	15	9	11
Tins	...	...	...	17 — 3 —	68	3	—	4 15 1 —	17	4	—
Battery	...	...	...	— — — —	—	—	—	— — — —	—	3	9
Bottles	...	...	...	238½ doz.	7	18	11	366½ doz.	16	2	1
TOTAL	...	...	...	97 — — —	690	1	11	76 14 3 4	1035	19	5



## SECTION TWO.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### FOOD PREMISES.

Steady progress was maintained in improvements to food premises in the District during 1952. As a result of informal action under the Food and Drugs Act 1938 improvements were made in 18 premises. As is usual in rural districts, the majority of the food premises are combined with living accommodation, where the persons employed are the owner of the business, his wife, and possibly one assistant. Whilst the combination of food premises and living accommodation raises difficulties as regards ideal design and storage provisions, it has certain advantages in that the respective owners take a pride in maintaining their premises to the best of their ability, and are keen to implement any suggestions for improvement made by my inspectors.

This side of the work of the department can only be successfully carried out by frequent inspections of the premises concerned which enables the inspectors to establish a friendly relationship with retailers, and pass on information of new developments and products helpful in improving standards of hygiene. This in turn involves a large amount of work which is not truly reflected in statistical returns.

#### Bakehouses.

There are 13 bakehouses situated in the district, of which 12 are in use, the other is closed pending certain necessary alterations specified by my Department.

Of the 12 in use 7 are satisfactory and comply with the relevant provisions of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, three are being brought up to standard by informal action. Work in these three cases is in progress and when completed will give satisfactory conditions. The two others are small family concerns which maintain a high standard of cleanliness although the premises do not comply with the Food and Drugs Act 1938.

42 inspections were made during the year, and I am pleased to report that all vehicles delivering bread are closely supervised and are maintained in a satisfactory manner.

#### Public Houses.

A feature of the year's work has been the large amount of improvement carried out to the public houses in the District. As a result of the survey of public houses completed early in 1952, the owners were notified by letter of any defects found and the response from the owners concerned has been most gratifying.



Extensive repair, alterations and improvements have been carried out at 16 premises, and in addition minor improvements such as provision of mains water, installation of water heaters and redecoration has been carried out in 14 other premises.

There are still several premises where improvements are required, but it is appreciated that if the present rate of improvement is maintained, all essential improvements should be completed over a period of two years.

### **St. Margaret's Bacon Factory, Stratton St. Margaret.**

During 1952 a total of 13,899 pigs were slaughtered and inspected at the St. Margaret's Bacon Factory, Stratton.

The pigs are slaughtered on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. The number killed has greatly increased during the year and the present average is over 300 pigs per week, compared with 150 pigs per week a year ago.

The inspection of these pigs is an important part of the routine duties of my Department. Each animal is inspected both ante mortem and post mortem, and my Inspector is present during the whole of the time the slaughtering is being carried out. Close supervision is maintained on slaughtering and dressing of carcasses and a high standard of cleanliness is thus achieved.

The offals are sold locally and suitable carcasses are cured for bacon on the premises. The premises are such that space is limited, the main factor being shortage of hanging room. Attention has been focused on improvements and plans have been prepared for extension of the building. Some improvements, made during the year include provision of additional refrigerated space, fixing of electric fans to assist cooling, provision of head racks and offal racks, reorganisation of the gut cleaning room, and provision of a new mess room for the employees.

The percentage of pigs affected with tuberculosis during the year is 5% compared with 4.2% for 1951. My Department continues to notify all cases of generalised tuberculosis found in animals bred locally to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Animal Health Division, who have thoroughly investigated all these cases by visiting the breeder and examining all animals on the premises with a view to tracing the source of infection. I am pleased to report that these inquiries and inspections have in a number of cases proved entirely satisfactory and subsequent batches of pigs have proved free from tubercular infection. The co-operation received from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Veterinary Inspector is much appreciated, and this link between the two services is most beneficial to the community.

## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
No. killed ... ..	—	—	—	—	13,899
No. inspected ... ..	—	—	—	—	13,899
<i>All diseases except T.B.</i>					
Whole carcasses con- demned ... ..	—	—	—	—	11
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..		—	—	—	2,122
Per cent of no. inspec- ted affected with dis- ease other than Tuber- culosis ... ..	—	—	—	—	15.3%
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses con- demned ... ..	—	—	—	—	25
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	667
Per cent of no. inspec- ted affected with Tu- berculosis ... ..	—	—	—	—	5%

### UNSOUND FOOD. (Bacon Factory).

36 complete carcasses & organs.	216 lbs. hindquarters.
459 lbs. forequarter.	90 lbs. collars.
125 lbs. flanks.	224 complete plucks.
323½ pigs heads.	437 pigs livers.
647 pigs lungs.	199 pigs hearts.
17 pigs spleens.	1016 pigs guts.
37 pigs flecks.	962 pigs kidneys.
8 pigs tenderloins.	

During the year the following foodstuffs was also found to be unfit for human consumption, and surrender notes issued.

1565 lbs. flour.	11½ lbs. mutton.
337½ lbs. beef.	23 packets barley flakes.
435 tins various foods (317½ lbs.)	4 packets milk jelly.
6 bottles chutney.	2 packets sweet herbs.
2 bottles bismouth mixture.	16 packets pudding mixture.
3 cartons chocolate spread.	3 cartons malt cup.
403½ lbs. Bacon.	

It should be noted that certain of the foods condemned were not a total loss as in the case of flour, where permission was given to use for animal feeding.

### **Slaughter of Animals Act 1933.**

#### **Section 3.**

The number of licensed slaughtermen in the District on 31st December, 1952 was 26. In the past these licences have been granted for a three year period, but from the 1st January, 1953 and for the purpose of administration and more rigid control these licences will be granted annually. There were no complaints in respect of any person holding such a licence during the period.

#### **Slaughterhouse and Knackers Yard Licences.**

In addition to St. Margarets Bacon Factory, Stratton St. Margaret, five other slaughterhouses suitably situated in the District are licensed for the slaughter of cottagers pigs only. There is also one Knackers Yard licensed within the District.

In addition to the usual routine visits paid, these premises are again inspected, when application for the renewal of the licences are received, in order that any necessary works should be carried out.

### **MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949.**

Number of Dairies registered	...	...	6
Number of Distributors	...	...	39
Number of Producer Retailers	...	...	30

#### **Milk Special Designations.**

Number of T.T. Dealers licences	...	...	7
Number of Pasteurised Dealers licences	...	...	4
Number of Supplementary T.T. Dealers Licences	...	...	2
Number of Supplementary Pasteurised Dealers Licences	...	...	2

#### **Milk Sampling.**

Number of samples taken	...	...	33
(Not including 30 samples taken in connection with notified case of Undulant Fever).			



## TESTS CARRIED OUT

Type of milk	Tests carried out	Result	Action
Pasteurised ...	2 Methylene Blue	Satisfactory	nil
Pasteurised ...	1 Biological	Satisfactory	nil
T.T. Pasteurised	2 Methylene Blue	Satisfactory	nil
T.T. Pasteurised	1 Biological	Satisfactory	nil
Ungraded ...	10 Methylene Blue	6 Satisfactory 4 Unsatisfactory	Dealers notified
Ungraded ...	16 Biological	Satisfactory	nil
Tuberculin Tested	11 Methylene Blue	8 Satisfactory 3 Unsatisfactory	Dealers notified
Tuberculin Tested	8 Biological	Satisfactory	nil

### Ice cream Sampling.

During the year, particularly during the summer months, 38 samples of ice cream were submitted for the Methylene Blue reduction test. The results of the analyses are as follows:

Provisional Grade 1.	...	25
„ „ 2.	...	10
„ „ 3.	...	2
„ „ 4.	...	1

These samples were of prepacked ice cream of proprietary brands, and subsequent samples taken from the three premises where results were in grades 3 and 4 were graded in grade 1 or 2.

Letters have been sent notifying the manufacturers and dealers of the results of the sampling which on the whole show that the icecream sold in this District is manufactured and distributed in a satisfactory manner.

By arrangement with the Swindon Area Pathological Laboratory, it is hoped to submit samples of icecream for chemical analyses. Compositional standards have been prescribed for ice cream, and whilst this Authority is not responsible for enforcing these standards, I feel that the results of such chemical analyses will materially assist my Department by giving a reliable guide to the quality of ingredients and care taken in dispensing same.

Attention has also been given to the sale of ice cream from vehicles in the streets which are subject to the Food Byelaws and every opportunity is taken to inform persons employed in the sale of icecream of the importance of personal cleanliness.



SECTION THREE

HOUSING.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1952.

<b>1. No. of New houses and flats erected during the year.</b>			
By the local Authority	...	...	117
By Private Enterprise	...	...	23
<b>2. Inspection of Dwellings during the year.</b>			
Inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts.	...	...	291
Inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts.	...	...	118
No. of dwellings found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	...	...	8
No. of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	...	...	363
<b>3. Remedy of defects by Informal Action.</b>			
No. of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of Informal Action	...	...	217
<b>4. Action under Statutory Powers, (Public Health &amp; Housing Acts.)</b>			
(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 & 16 of Housing Act 1936.			
Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	1
Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:			
By Owners	...	...	nil.
By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	nil.
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.			
Number of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served	...	...	2
Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices:			
By owners	...	...	2
By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	nil.
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 & 13 Housing Act 1936.			
Number of Demolition Orders made	...	...	3
Number of houses demolished as result of Demolition orders	...	...	3
Number of undertakings accepted	...	...	1
Number of undertakings completed	...	...	nil.
(d) Proceedings under Section 25 and 26 Housing Act 1936.			
Number of houses under which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	nil.
Number of houses demolished in persuance of Demolition orders	...	...	nil.
(e) Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act 1936.			
Number of separate tenements or underground			

rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were cancelled as a result of premises having been made fit	...	...	...	...	...	nil.

#### **Housing Act 1936, Part iv. Overcrowding.**

Number of cases of overcrowded dwellings at end of year	...	...	...	...	nil.
Number of cases discovered during the year	...	...	...	...	3
Number of cases abated during year	...	...	...	...	3

### **RURAL HOUSING SURVEY**

#### **Details for the year 1952.**

(a) Estimated number of houses in District	...	5933
(b) Total Number of houses surveyed up to 31-12-52	1965	

#### **Categorisation of houses inspected.**

Cat.1.	Cat.2.	Cat.3.	Cat.4.	Cat.5.	Total
821	292	369	135	348	1965

#### **Housing Statistics.**

The figures used show the housing state reached after checking and screening of details following renewal by the applicants in January 1953. Speaking generally the figures are self explanatory and are compiled to give detailed information to the Authority's Representatives. It appears regrettable that in spite of the local Authority's every endeavour to rehouse applicants by building this year 127 houses, that the housing application list still shows need for 496 houses if we are totally to meet this need.

The accommodation now being used by the families on the application list is shown in the accompanying tables. It is worth noting that due to the progressive policy of this Council the number of applicants who are living in hutments shows a very heavy and real reduction, and some of the applicants living in hutments are from adjoining authorities.

The high percentage of applicants living in rooms is mainly due to young married couples who are living with friends and are very new applicants.

It is felt that the overall increase in the application list could be attributed to the progressive building policy of this Authority, coupled with the expansion of industrial firms within the Council's area. This can be seen from the number of applications received from persons who while working in this Area, are living outside it. In fact 118 of the applications are from persons living outside the District, which is 24%; and it may well be these applicants have applications lodged with other Authorities.

With these up to date housing statistics it can be seen the type



of house which will be required in the future, as to number of rooms, etc, and therefore assist the Council in their future housing policy. However, it is felt that due to the heavy pressure placed upon progressive housing authorities by building new houses, there must be a real tightening up of the application system so that this Authority is not placed in the position of having to erect houses for more backward authorities in which the applicants reside.

It will be seen from the lists that there are applications for old age bungalows from 40 persons, this raises the question of giving incentives to old persons who are residing in 3 bedroomed houses, and whose families have now left them, to move into smaller accommodation and thereby vacate larger houses for the use of larger families. This could no doubt be done by a real reduction in rent, the payment of cost of removal, and bungalow gardens being dug on the completion of the contract.

**Total houses owned or controlled by the  
Highworth Rural District Council.**

Prewar houses	...	...	...	509
Wartime houses, Bungalows, etc.	...	...	...	432
Postwar houses	...	...	...	528
				<hr/>
Total houses	...	...	...	1469
				<hr/>

**TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION NOW USED BY  
HOUSING APPLICANTS**

	Huts	Rooms	Houses	Caravans	Flats	Total
December 31st, 1952	12	235	227	10	12	496
<i>Percentage of total</i>	2.4%	47.4%	45.7%	2.0%	2.4%	
December 31st, 1951	36	191	226	8	14	475
<i>Percentage of total</i>	7.6%	40.3%	47.6%	1.7%	2.8%	

**FAMILY DETAILS**

	No. applicants	Percent. of applicants
Single persons ... ..	8	1.6%
Married couples ... ..	160	32.3%
"    "    with 1 child ...	146	29.4%
"    "    "    2 children ...	122	24.6%
"    "    "    3 children ...	40	8.0%
"    "    "    4 or more ...	20	4.1%

# STATISTICAL HOUSING DETAILS FOR ALL PARISHES

No. houses etc. owned by H.R.D.C.	...	1469	No. of pre-war houses	509	No. of Wartime houses temporary bungalows, site houses, etc.	...	432	No. of post-war houses	528	Total	1469
<hr/>											
Total houses built 1952		H.R.D.C.		Private Enterprise		No. built in 1951		H.R.D.C.		Private Enterprise	
		127		23				99		7	
<hr/>											
Total applications renewed 31/1/52		496		Accommodation now used by applicants ...		Rooms Huts Houses		235 12 191		Flats Caravans Tem. bungalows	
								12 10 36		No. living H.R.D.C. property	
										37	
<hr/>											
Population of District		21,330		Family units involved in applications		1585		1952 Percent. 1951 Percent.		7.4% 7.77%	
								No. Old Age bungalow applications		40	
<hr/>											
No. of ex-service cases		...		...		349		No. of applications on medical grounds		...	
										18	
<hr/>											
				No. applications not living in H.R.D.C. area		...				118	
<hr/>											
<b>SIZE OF FAMILY. DETAILS</b>											
Number of Applicants		Single		Man & Wife		&1C		&2C		&3C	
		8		160		146		122		40	
										&4C	
										&5C	
										&6C	
										&7C	
										1	
										1	
<hr/>											
<b>Age Groups in Terms of Years.</b>											
Age of App.		20		25		30		35		40	
										45	
Number of Applicants		63		123		108		64		54	
										35	
										24	
										12	
										10	
										3	
<hr/>											
<b>Years in which Applications were Received.</b>											
Number of Applicants		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947	
										1948	
										1949	
										1950	
										1951	
										1952	
		1		4		3		12		15	
										41	
										71	
										106	
										227	





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